

## Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W  
----- 080328

R 161305 Z APR 73  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO JCS  
DIA  
SECSTATE WASHDC 1879

S E C R E T TEHRAN 2474

EXDIS

SECDEF FOR ODDR, DR. FOSTER FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: XGDS1  
TAGS: MASS, MCAP  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED TESTING OF SOVIET AND SWISS AA GUNS IN IRANIAN  
INVENTORY

REF: DAO MSG 180, DTG 141055 Z APR 73 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE ASKED GOI, THROUGH ARMY ATTACHE, FOR PERMISSION  
TO TEST IRANIAN- HELD AA GUNS, AMMUNITION AND SPARES. FOLLOWING  
PROGRAM PROPOSED TO GOI:

- A) TEST IN US IN LATE 1973 OF SWISS- MADE, 35 MM TWIN BARREL  
OERLIKON TOWED AA GUN.
- B) FOR TEST IN US IN LATE 1973, OBTAIN FROM GOI 13000  
ROUNDS OF 23 MM SERVICE AMMO, SEVERAL HUNDRED ROUNDS OF 57  
MM SERVICE AMMO AND SPARE PARTS FOR SOVIET- MADE 23 MM ZU-23-2  
AA GUN.
- C. TEST IN IRAN IN EARLY 1975, SOVIET- MADE TWIN BARREL 57  
MM ZSU-57-2 AA GUN; 4- BARREL, SELF- PROPELLED 23 MM ZSU-23-4  
AA GUN AND SWISS- MADE 35 MM AA GUN.

2. FOR TESTS IN IRAN, GOI HAS BEEN ASKED PROVIDE PERSONNEL,  
AMMO, GUNS AND SPARES FOR UP TO 200 HOURS OF F-4 TARGET LIGHTS  
WITH SLEEVES AND DRONES.

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3. REQUEST, WHICH BEING CLOSELY HELD IN IRANIAN MILITARY, REFERRED TO SHAH FOR DECISION. HE AGREE, SUBJECT TO TWO CONDITIONS: USG WILL BEAR ALL COSTS AND THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF PROJECT. INFORMATION ON TESTS MUST NOT BE DIVULGED OUTSIDE OF RESTRICTED DOD AND STATE CHANNELS. SPECIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT OUTLINING RESTRICTIONS ON INFORMATION WILL BE NECESSARY.

4. WE UNDERSTAND TESTS IN IRAN COULD COST 1.75 MILLION DOLLARS AND FUNDS FOR PROGRAM MUST BE REQUESTED FROM CONGRESS AS BUDGET LINE ITEM. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO BRIEF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN TESTING. GOI IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ON THIS SCORE, IN VIEW ITS AGREEMENT WITH USSR PROHIBITING RELEASE OF ARMS TO THIRD COUNTRIES. GOI HAS BEEN VERY UNHAPPY WITH RECENT WASHINGTON PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS ON MATTERS WHICH THEY CONSIDER PRIVILEGED AND SENSITIVE FROM SECURITY STANDPOINT. SHAH HIMSELF HAS COMMENTED ADVERSELY ON OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENCES. THEREFORE, UNLESS WE ARE ABLE TO GIVE AND MAINTAIN ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE THAT INFORMATION ON TESTS WILL BE HELD WITHIN DOD AND STATE, WE SHALL BE OBLIGED TO WITHDRAW REQUESTS WITH GOI. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS WHETHER SUCH ASSURANCE IS FEASIBLE.

5. IF PROJECT IS AUTHORIZED, BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONCLUDE SPECIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT AS EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITHIN LOCAL MILITARY CHANNELS.  
HELMS

SECRET

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MASS, MCAP  
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